



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

June 29, 2020

Dear IPEDS Keyholder:

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE) publicly released this year's College Affordability and Transparency Center (CATC) Lists on Monday, June 29, 2020. OPE is informing you so that if your institution is on one of the lists, you can alert your leadership that the lists are made public.

A copy of this letter is available via PDF at the following URL:

<http://ipedslistserv.rti.org/images/CATC2.pdf>

More information about the CATC Lists:

- **Where will the lists be posted?** We will post the lists at <http://collegecost.ed.gov>. They will include several lists of institutions based on tuition and fees and average net price (the cost of attendance after considering all grant and scholarship aid) charged to students.
- **Why is the Department posting them?** These lists meet requirements outlined in the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended. Per the HEA, the lists are updated annually and posted by July 1.
- **What happens if my institution is on one of the lists?** If your institution is on either of the "increase lists" for your sector (i.e., the list showing the highest increases in tuition and fees or the list showing the highest increases in average net price) you will be required under the HEA to provide additional information to the Department through the College Affordability and Transparency Explanation Form (CATEF). By the end of January 2021, you will receive further guidance from the Department on this additional reporting requirement.
- **From where do the data come?** The 2020 lists are based on data collected during the 2018-19 IPEDS data collection cycle, the most recent data that have undergone the full NCES data review process and that have been publicly released via the IPEDS Data Center. Specifically, tuition and fees data came from the Institutional Characteristics survey component, which collected 2016-17

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and 2018-19 charges. Average net price data came from the Student Financial Aid survey component, which collected and calculated average net prices for academic years 2015-16 and 2017-18.

• **Can I revise my data now?** No. The data used have been fully reviewed by the National Center for Education Statistics and published in multiple publications. Updated data submitted in the 2018-19 Prior Year Revision System are not included in the 2020 CATC lists because a full data review of the revised data is not possible by the July 1 release date.

• **How were the calculations made?** Methodology information is included in the CATC.

• **Whom do I contact if I have questions about the methodology for creating the lists?** Please first review the methodology information available in the CATC. If you have additional questions, please send them to the program manager, Freddie Cross, at Freddie.Cross@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

Annmarie Weisman
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Policy Development, Analysis, and Accreditation Services